

ARKANSAS BROILER HATCHERY



ARKANSAS
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

10800 Financial Centre Parkway
Suite 110
Little Rock, AR 72211
Phone: (501) 228-9926
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/ar/>

ARKANSAS CHICK PLACEMENTS DOWN 5 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

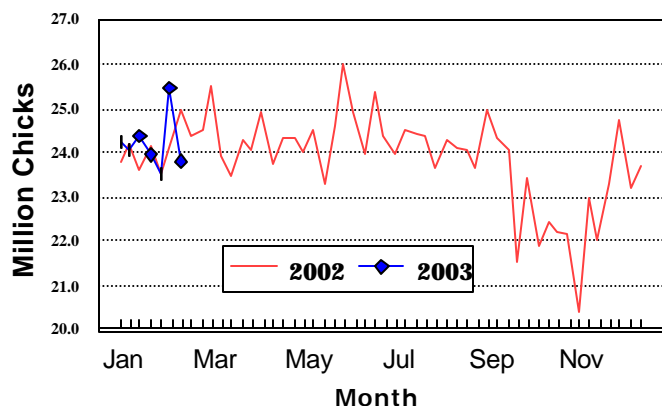
Broiler-type chicks placed for meat production in Arkansas was 23.8 million during the week ending February 15, 2003. Placements were down 5 percent from the comparable week in 2002, and down 7 percent from the previous week, and included 2.0 million chicks shipped in from other states. Cumulative placements from December 29, 2002 through February 15, 2003 were 169.5 million, up 1 percent from the same period a year earlier.

The broiler-type chicks hatched for the week was 25.7 million, up 2 percent from the corresponding week a year earlier, and up 1 percent from the previous week. Of the total hatch, 3.4 million chicks were shipped out of the state. Average hatchability for chicks hatched was 82.7 percent.

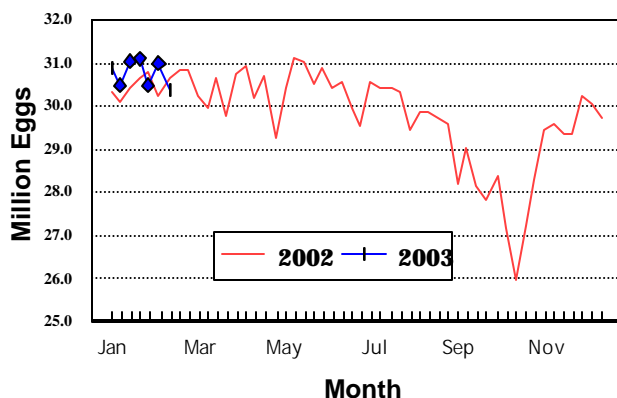
Arkansas hatcheries set 30.4 million broiler-type eggs during the week ending February 15, 2003, down 1 percent from the same period last year, and down 2 percent from the previous week.

Week Ending	NET PLACEMENTS			CHICKS HATCHED			EGGS SET		
	2002	2003	% Change	2002	2003	% Change	2002	2003	% Change
	1,000			1,000			1,000		
Jan. 11	24,183	24,081	100	25,342	24,771	98	30,121	30,485	101
Jan. 18	23,617	24,397	103	25,087	24,693	98	30,421	31,023	102
Jan. 25	24,158	23,950	99	24,968	25,618	103	30,623	31,087	102
Feb. 1	23,546	23,524	100	24,583	25,325	103	30,806	30,468	99
Feb. 8	24,115	25,475	106	24,842	25,519	103	30,232	30,994	103
Feb. 15	24,984	23,806	95	25,204	25,709	102	30,627	30,363	99

CHICKS PLACED IN ARKANSAS, 2002-2003



EGGS SET, 2002 - 2003



BROILER EGGS SET AND CHICKS PLACED IN 19 MAJOR STATES BY WEEKS, 2003

STATE	EGGS SET (in Thousands)					CHICKS PLACED (in Thousands)						
	Week Ending				1/ %	Week Ending						1/ %
	25-Jan	01-Feb	08-Feb	15-Feb		11-Jan	18-Jan	25-Jan	01-Feb	08-Feb	15-Feb	
Alabama	27,453 *	27,755	26,987	27,311	92	21,069	20,992	21,492	21,231	21,390	20,696	92
ARKANSAS	31,087	30,468	30,994	30,363	99	24,081	24,397	23,950	23,524	25,475	23,806	95
Delaware	3,418	3,607	3,489	3,348	91	5,324	5,317	4,775	5,018	4,698 *	5,539	96
Florida	1,581	1,587	1,609	1,605	69	1,502	1,555	1,689	1,754	1,393	1,739	81
Georgia	31,410 *	31,175	30,864	30,873	98	24,218 *	24,955 *	24,948	25,094	25,425 *	25,838	101
Kentucky	6,475 *	6,516	6,429	6,188	96	5,392	5,092	5,254	5,566	5,315	5,382	98
Maryland	9,883	9,935	9,897	9,494	94	5,566	5,583	6,493	6,274	6,265 *	5,601	100
Mississippi	19,241	18,885	18,501	18,912	100	15,285	15,873	15,937	15,968	15,479	15,967	107
N. Carolina	18,099	18,167	17,938	18,492	95	14,309	14,091	14,290	14,262	14,439	14,217	100
Oklahoma	6,435 *	6,554	6,432	6,395	97	4,218	4,066	4,289	5,623	4,259	4,509	87
Pennsylvania	3,364	3,631 *	3,497 *	3,465	87	2,516	2,576	2,510	2,523 *	2,486 *	2,553	103
S. Carolina	4,823	4,946	4,820	4,841	98	3,589	4,341	4,100	4,209	3,607 *	3,534	91
Texas	14,809	14,729	14,417	14,786	96	11,637	11,770	12,193	12,276	11,905	12,340	102
Virginia	6,629	6,515	6,520	6,491	99	5,161	5,214	5,007	5,287	5,617 *	5,612	109
CALAMO,TN,WV	19,945	19,586	19,682 *	19,899	98	18,265 *	17,866 *	19,138 *	17,856	17,206 *	18,703	110
Total 2003	204,652 *	204,056 *	202,076 *	202,463		162,132 *	163,688 *	166,065 *	166,465 *	164,959 *	166,036	
Total 2002	206,876	208,754	208,199	210,479		168,883	168,359	167,400	164,318	165,373	167,095	
% Prev. Year	99	98	97	96		96	97	99	101	100	99	
Approximate Marketing Date 2003.....						01-Mar	08-Mar	15-Mar	22-Mar	29-Mar	05-Apr	

* Revised . 1/ Current week as percent of the same week last year.

EGGS SET IN 19 SELECTED STATES DOWN 4 PERCENT

Commercial hatcheries in the 19-state weekly program set 202 million eggs during the week ending February 15, 2003. This was down 4 percent from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 83 percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier.

BROILER CHICKS PLACED DOWN 1 PERCENT

Broiler growers in the 19-state weekly program placed 166 million chicks for meat production during the week ending February 15, 2003. Placements were down 1 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from December 29, 2002 through February 15, 2003 were 1.15 billion, down 1 percent from the same period a year earlier.